

We claim:

1. A process for preparing (meth)acrylic esters by esterifying (meth)acrylic acid or by transesterifying (meth)acrylic esters with alcohols, which comprises
  - 5 a) adding the (meth)acrylic acid or the (meth)acrylic ester at a metering rate of less than 250 g per hour and liter of reactor volume and/or
  - 10 b) using at least 0.2 mmol of polymerization inhibitor per kg of alcohol and per meq/kg of peroxid number of the alcohol determined by the Sully method and/or
  - 15 c) thermally treating the alcohol in the absence of water before the esterification or transesterification.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein process steps a) and b) and optionally c) are carried out.
3. A process as claimed in claims 1 and 2, wherein the peroxide number of the alcohol used is at least 0.1 meq/kg.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein mono- or polyhydric C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alcohols are used.
- 25 5. A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the alcohol used is methanol, ethanol, n-butanol, 2-ethylhexyl alcohol and/or dimethylaminoethanol.
6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the (meth)acrylic acid or (meth)acrylic ester is stabilized using compounds from the group of the N-oxides, phenols, quinones, aromatic amines, hydroxylamines, imines, sulfonamides, oximes, phosphorus compounds, sulfur compounds, metal salts and/or mixtures of the groups mentioned.
- 30 7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the polymerization inhibitor used is phenothiazine.